



Tamara Preiss
Vice President
Federal Regulatory and Legal Affairs

1300 I Street, NW, Suite 500 East
Washington, DC 20005
Phone 202.515.2540
Fax 202.336.7922
tamara.preiss@verizon.com

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Ex Parte

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Accelerating Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Deployment, WT Docket No. 17-79; Accelerating Wireline Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Deployment, WT Docket No. 17-84

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On February 1, 2018, Will Johnson and Tamara Preiss of Verizon spoke by telephone with Will Adams, legal advisor to Commissioner Carr, about the above-referenced proceedings. Consistent with our comments and reply comments, we discussed how the Commission can speed wireless broadband deployment and pave the way for enhanced 4G and 5G networks by removing impediments to wireless facility siting, particularly small cells.

We stressed the importance of reducing the costs and delays associated with tribal reviews. We also urged the Commission to use its authority under Sections 253 and 332(c)(7) of the Communications Act¹ to declare that fees for access to rights-of-way and municipal poles that exceed cost erect substantial barriers to wireless facilities deployment and thus violate the Act. Finally, we reiterated our request for a “deemed granted” remedy when the applicable Section 332(c)(7) shot clock expires without action.

We also discussed Verizon’s support for recent actions by more than a dozen states across the country – including Arizona, Iowa, North Carolina, and Delaware – to enact legislation modernizing wireless facilities siting. Even as the Commission considers ways to remove state or local impediments to deployment, it should encourage states to pursue a policy framework for access, timeliness, and fees that protects local interests while also facilitating the network deployment that will bring their citizens the economic and social benefits of 5G. Such efforts can and should inform the Commission’s efforts in these proceedings.

This letter is being filed pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission’s Rules. Should you have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

cc: (via e-mail)
Will Adams

¹ 47 U.S.C. §§ 253, 332(c)(7).